



***North Pacific Fisheries Association***  
***P.O. Box 796 · Homer, AK · 99603***

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March 31, 2014  
Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)

Re: Opposition to SB 42- Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Chair Giessel and Senate Resource Committee Members,

The North Pacific Fisheries Association is a multi gear, multi species commercial fishing organization based in Homer, Alaska. We have over 45 members who participate in fisheries throughout the State of Alaska.

NPFA is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 42. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has statutory authority to establish regulations and allocate fisheries resources. This is done in a public forum with conservation and scientific input. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is tasked with executing these regulations and managing the resource. The legislation proposed in SB 42 would undermine this process and has many potential ramifications depending on how the language is interpreted. This type of legislation only inhibits resource management at a potential cost to all users. As it is now, personal use has a de facto priority and is rarely restricted before other fisheries.

Article 8, Section 15 of the Alaska Constitution states "No exclusive or special privilege of fishery shall be created or authorized in the natural waters of the State." I'm not a lawyer but this bill seems in direct conflict with this section.

Please do not move this bill forward. Allow our fisheries managers the full range of options to execute their legal mandate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

G Malcolm Milne  
President, North Pacific Fisheries Association